

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BONN 01805 031114Z

12

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /013 W
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O R 031100Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6143

USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION USBERLIN

UNCLAS BONN 01805

FOR STATE EUR/CE - PLEASE PASS AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND

FOR USIA - PLEASE PASS IEU/MYRON HOFFMANN; IBS

FOR US MISSION BERLIN - PLEASE PASS RIAS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PROP, GW, WB

SUBJECT: RIAS ANNIVERSARY

1. PLEASE RELAY SOONEST TO AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND. POST WOULD LIKE HIM TO CONSIDER FOLLOWING TEXT OR EDITED VERSION FOR BROADCAST OVER RIAS ON STATION'S THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY, ASSUMING THE AMBASSADOR CONCURS WITH TEXT WE WILL FORWARD BY COB A GERMAN TRANSLATION. WOULD APPRECIATE VOA RECORDING AND TRANSMITTING TO RIAS BERLIN FOR AIRING FEBRUARY 7.
2. SHOULD AMBASSADOR OPT NOT TO BROADCAST GREETINGS, THEN REQUEST HE TRANSMIT BY TELEGRAM APPROVED ENGLISH TEXT TO RIAS, INFO BONN.
3. SHOULD AMBASSADOR OPT TO TAPE REMARKS, POST WILL ATTEMPT TO DO FINAL VERSION IN GERMAN BASED ON AMBASSADOR'S EDITS.
4. FOR USIA, IEU AND IBS: PLEASE DETERMINE AMBASSADOR'S DESIRES AND ARRANGE ACCORDINGLY. RIAS FULLY CONCURS IN THE PROPOSAL.

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PAGE 02 BONN 01805 031114Z

5. BEGIN TEXT: "IT IS PARTICULARLY APPROPRIATE FOR ME

TO CONVEY BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO RIAS FROM THE UNITED STATES, VIA THE SHORT-WAVE FACILITIES OF THE VOICE OF AMERICA. THIRTY YEARS AGO WHEN RIAS FIRST WENT ON THE AIR, IT WAS THE OFFSPRING OF THE U.S. MILITARY GOVERNMENT, DESIGNED TO GIVE BERLINERS AN INDEPENDENT, WESTERN ORIENTED VOICE.

"IN THOSE DAYS, RIAS WAS A PRIMITIVE BROADCASTING STATION, USING WIRED RECEIVERS KEYED TO THE CITY'S TELEPHONE NETWORK. THE FIRST BROADCASTS WERE DEVOTED TO PROVIDING VITAL INFORMATION TO BERLINERS, THE DETAILS ON WHERE TO GET RATION CARDS, FOOD, SUPPLIES AND CLOTHING. IN SHORT, THE RIAS MISSION 30 YEARS AGO WAS TO COMMUNICATE TO BERLINERS THE FACTS PERTINENT TO THEIR SURVIVAL.

"THE MISSION OF RIAS THEREAFTER CHANGED WITH THE TIMES. IT BECAME CLEAR THAT THE RADIO STATION WAS ALSO NEEDED TO KEEP BERLINERS INFORMED ON WHAT WAS HAPPENING IN THE WORLD OUTSIDE THE FOUR-POWER CITY. SO THE STATION WAS EXPANDED, NEW PERSONNEL ADDED, AIR TIME AND TRANSMITTING FACILITIES INCREASED. RIAS BECAME A FULL-SCALE, AROUND-THE-CLOCK BROADCASTING STATION -- ONE PARTICULARLY DEVOTED TO BERLINERS AND THEIR PROBLEMS. TODAY THE CALL LETTERS RIAS ARE SYNONYMOUS WITH EXCELLENCE IN BROADCASTING. THE LITTLE STATION WHICH BEGAN LIFE ON A SHOE-STRING HAS GROWN INTO ONE OF THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS OF WORLD BROADCASTERS.

"RIAS HAS FULFILLED ITS CLASSIC ROLE OF PROVIDING FREE ACCESS TO OBJECTIVE NEWS -- AND DIVERSITY OF OPINION ON MAJOR ISSUES. EQUALLY IMPORTANT, RIAS IS THE PRODUCT OF GERMAN AND AMERICAN INGENUITY AND COOPERATION -- AND IT SERVES AS A DAILY REMINDER OF MY COUNTRY'S COMMITMENT TO THE FREEDOM AND CONTINUING PROSPERITY OF BERLIN. I SALUTE RIAS ON ITS 30TH BIRTHDAY -- AND CONGRATULATE THE STAFF ON A JOB WELL DONE."

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